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DELAWARE'S COURT SYSTEM RANKED #1 FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the fifth year in a row, Delaware ranked as the number one court system overall in the Harris Poll State Liability Systems Ranking Study released yesterday by the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform. The 2006 ranking study measured twelve key elements of state liability systems to determine that Delaware's legal system, again this year, does the best job of any state in the nation in creating a fair and reasonable litigation environment. Delaware ranked number one in nine of the key elements: overall treatment of tort and contract litigation, class action and mass consolidation suits, punitive damages, timeliness of summary judgment or dismissal, discovery, scientific and technical evidence, non-economic damages, and judges' impartiality and competence. It ranked second in venue requirements and in the top five in the remaining categories pertaining to juries' predictability and fairness.

Chief Justice Myron T. Steele expressed his appreciation to the participants in the United States Chamber of Commerce survey for their support of and trust in the Delaware Judiciary. The Chief Justice stated: "The Delaware Judiciary works together to ensure the fairness and efficiencies of the court process for all who litigate in Delaware's courts. I would like to commend my colleagues and the court staff whose hard work resulted in this recognition, which focuses on the efforts of Delaware's Superior Court, the premiere court of general jurisdiction in the country. The Delaware Judiciary is committed to providing first class legal services to our individual and corporate citizens."

To view a full copy of the report, visit www.instituteforlegalreform.org

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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